

## Message Text

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61

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEA-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 PRS-01 ACDA-19 /107 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:CLDARIS/RKSHERWOOD:IW

APPROVED BY AF: DDNEWSOM

AF/RA:JWALKER (INFO)

NEA/IAI:ESWALKER (DRAFT)

IN/UNP:XVUNOVIC (DRAFT)

UNEF/WG:HGHAGERTY (DRAFT)

NEA TASK FORCE:DKORN (DRAFT)

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O 312350Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 215014

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,IV,XF,IS

SUBJ: AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: ABIDJAN 7516

ABIDJAN FOR CHARGE

1. HOUPHOUET HAS EXPRESSED DESIRE THROUGH GOIC AMBASSADOR AHOUA THAT AMBASSADOR ROOT RETURN TO ABIDJAN SOONEST. WHAT HOUPHOUET WISHES TO DISCUSS UNSPECIFIED BUT PRESUMABLY TIED TO GOIC'S MIDDLE EAST DILEMMA.
  2. CHARGE SHOULD CONTACT PRESIDENT OR PRESIDENCY AND SAY THAT IN LIGHT FOREGOING AMBASSADOR ROOT HAS DONE UTMOST TO ABBREVIATE HIS CONSULTATION SCHEDULE AND PROPOSES TO ARRIVE ABIDJAN TUESDAY NOON NOVEMBER 6 VIA PANAM. (NOTE:ACCORDING
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TO AHOUA HOUPHOUET SCHEDULED TO LEAVE ABIDJAN AGAIN FOR

EUROPE NOVEMBER 11). YOU SHOULD ADD THAT IF THERE IS MORE URGENT MESSAGE MEANWHILE HOUPHOUET MAY WISH TO GIVE IT TO YOU (WE HAVE TOLD AHOUA WE WOULD EXPECT YOU TO SEE PRESIDENT IN THE AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE).

3. UNTIL THIS REQUEST RESOLVED DO NOT BELIEVE YOU SHOULD SEEK MEETING WITH HOUPHOUET ON PRETEXT OF DELIVERING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE LEST YOUR INITIATIVE BE MISCONSTRUED. NOR DO WE BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE TO VOLUNTEER CONTENTS MONROVIA 5921, ALTHOUGH IF HOUPHOUET AWARE OF AND ALLUDES TO LIBERIAN DECISION IT COULD OBVIOUSLY STRENGTHEN WHAT WE HOPE IS IVORIAN PREFERENCE NOT TO BREAK WITH ISRAEL.

4. IF YOU ARE CALLED BY HOUPHOUET PRIOR TO THE AMBASSADOR'S RETURN AND HE INQUIRES RE OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD IC'S BREAKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT USG WOULD REGRET SUCH A DECISION. WE ARE FULLY COGNIZANT OF THE BANDWAGON ON WHICH MOST AF COUNTRIES HAVE JUMPED IN RECENT DAYS. WE BELIEVE HOWEVER THAT THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT WISH TO PLAY SOME KIND OF ROLE OR EXERCISE SOME INFLUENCE IN THE DIFFICULT PERIOD AHEAD WOULD FIND IT ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH BOTH SIDES. A CEASEFIRE IS OPERATIVE AND DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS ON ESSENTIAL ISSUES ARE ON THE HORIZON. IT WILL SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE AND MIGHT PROVE HARMFUL IF ISRAEL'S SENSE OF ISOLATION WERE FURTHER INCREASED AND THEIR MENTALITY BECOMES THAT OF A BESIEGED PARTY. AS WE MOVE INTO A DIFFICULT PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS COOL HEADS AND STATESMANSHIP WILL BE NEEDED MORE THAN EVER.

5. HOUPHOUET MAY RAISE QUESTION OF IVORIAN PARTICIPATION IN A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE (ABIDJAN 7495). IF HE DOES, YOU MAY INDICATE THAT SUCH A GESTURE OF GOODWILL AND INVOLVEMENT WOULD BE LAUDABLE. DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY UNDER AUSPICES UNSYG, HOWEVER, ON THE COMPOSITION OF THIS FORCE AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT THEIR OUTCOME. KISSINGER

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